



SFI AUDIT REPORT - - SF63

Company Name	Washington Department of Natural Resources				
Region	State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Lands				
Contact Person	Farra Vargas				
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Phone/Fax	360-902-1792				
Contract Number:	HQ 11205	CER/REN	Scope Extension	Surveillance	
Pre-certification audit SFI Standard 2005-2009			WA DNR Sustainable Forestry Management		
SFI 2005-2009 Edition					

Audit Dates:	From: May 22, 2006	To: May 25, 2006
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Team Leader:	Team Members:
Vincent P. Corrao	Greg Bassler
	Jim Rochelle

Scope of Audit:	
“Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Land Management Operations”	
Company Representative:	Farra Vargas

Acres (ha) within the scope of this audit:	Scope Extension 738,000 acres	Location of these acres: (state, province)	Eastern Washington
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Number of SF02's Raised:	Major:	0	Minor:	0
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Audit Summary

Opening meetings were held at the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) Northeast Region Office in Colville, Washington on May 22, 2006 and the Southeast Region Office on May 24, 2006 in Ellensburg. The goals and objectives of the audit were discussed. Farra Vargas, WA DNR SFI Program Project Manager, John Viada, Northeast Region Manager, Roy Henderson, Northeast Assistant Region Manager, Don Strand, North Columbia District Manager, Bruce Livingston, HCP Implementation Monitoring Manager, Bob McKellar, Northeast Region Management Forester, Wayde Schaible, Inventory Program Coordinator, Scott Fisher, Northeast Region Wildlife Biologist, Andrew Stenbeck, Arcadia District Manager, Tony Flanagan, North Columbia Unit Forester, Brian Cary, Natural Resource Research Technician, David Gordon, PSL Program Specialist were at the Northeast Region Opening Meeting, and Bill Boyum, Southeast Region Manager, George Shelton, Southeast Assistant Region Manager, Ken McNamee, District Manager, Charlie McKinney, Management Forester, and Steven Wetzal, Southeast Region Wildlife Biologist were present for the Southeast Region Opening Meeting.

The scope of the WA DNR and certification plan to audit all the DNR's forestry operations to the 2005-2009 Standard were discussed. Non-conformances and the requirements for clearing them, opportunities for improvement, and notable practices were discussed.

The Audit plan and logistics were reviewed and the sites confirmed to conduct the field portion of the audit in a timely manner. The certification audit is intended to verify the implementation and effectiveness of WA DNR's SFI program and demonstrate conformance in implementing the DNR forestry operations.

The field portion of the audit began on May 22, 2006 and concentrated on Objectives 1-7. A total of 32 sites were visited during the audit in both Regions. Site visits were primarily stumpage sales with one contract harvest sale (N-1700 Sorts) which was a delivered log sale on DNR lands. BVQI auditors found WA DNR SFI Coordinator and staff clearly understand the requirements of wildlife habitat, road maintenance, and biodiversity which are the major environmental concerns within WA DNR's operating areas. The WA DNR has effectively implemented the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Forest Practices Act, and the Habitat Conservation Plan on DNR lands. The work on the ground demonstrated effective environmental performance and long term sustainable management.

BVQI auditors reviewed WA DNR's past performance and opportunities for improvement which were identified in the certification audit conducted in 2004-2005. Auditors found that WA DNR has continued to work on implementing improvements that were addressed since the last audit.

Non-conformances issued: No non-conformances were issued during the audit.

Opportunities for Improvements: OFI's are weaknesses in the program that may lead to a non-conformance in the future if activities are not monitored for effectiveness.

OFI-Objective 10, PM-10.1: WA DNR does not inform purchasers and contractors that as an SFI program participant, they encourage loggers working on WA DNR lands to be trained. An example on the Rocky Mill sale where staff were not aware of logger training status.



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OFI-Objective 10- PM-10.1, I-2: Many of the DNR staff are not familiar with the SFI Standard Principles and Objectives and training may be required to bring staff up to understanding their roles and responsibilities of the Standard.

Notable Practices: NP's are practices and actions that are exemplary and indicate a strong commitment to the SFI intent and to continual improvement of their program.

Seven Notable Practices were identified during the audit:

- 1.) NP-Objective 3, PM 3.2, I-3: Field observations of type waters indicate that the DNR is exceeding the minimum width required by the WA FPA and are not entering the RMZ.
- 2.) NP-Objective 4, PM 4.1, I-2: The Klickitat HCP Amendment developed by the Southeast Region effectively balances owl protection and silvicultural needs, while providing increased management flexibility and improved owl habitat.
- 3.) NP-Objective 4, PM-4.2, I-2: The WA DNR's development of the Lynx Habitat Management Plan, Loomis Landscape Plan, and the Hydrologic Maturity Process together with forest health issues and wildfire protection is a commendable effort for balancing natural resource management on DNR lands.
- 4.) NP-Objective 4, PM-4.1, I-6: The WA DNR's Legacy Tree Procedure has been effectively implemented in harvest management with the retention of older mature trees for the future and have retained more trees than required.
- 5.) NP-Objective 6, PM-6.1, I-1: The WA DNR protects all cultural sites associated with the local history and culture of the communities in the regions. Examples include Summit unit with the stage coach line and Whiskey Dog Tractor with the cistern.
- 6.) NP-Objective 7, PM-7.1, I-1e. f.: The contract harvest program provides the DNR more operational control to implement silvicultural prescriptions, management issues, and financial returns through this delivered log program.
- 7.) NP-Objective 12, PM-12.1, I-5: WA DNR meets with the stakeholders on a one to one basis when needed to discuss issues and concerns of the stakeholders when implementing management practices.

Closing Meeting was held at the WA DNR Husum Work Center office on May 25, 2006. Farra Vargas, WA DNR SFI Program Project Manager, Wayde Schaible, Inventory Program Coordinator, David Gordon, PSL Program Specialist, Bill Boyum, Southeast Region Manager, George Shelton, Southeast Assistant Region Manager, Charlie McKinney, DNR Management Forester, Bruce Livingston, HCP Implementation Monitoring Manager, Clay Sprague, Senior Policy Advisor, Steven Wetzel DNR Southeast Region Wildlife Biologist, Jeanne Williams, Special Lands Manager, Pete Stocks, District Manager, and Brian Cary, Natural Resource Research Technician. John Viada, Northeast Region Manager, Roy Henderson, Northeast Assistant Region Manager, Don Strand, District Manager, and Bob McKeller, Management Forester, were also available via conference call. BVQi auditors and Technical Expert discussed the audit findings.



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BVQi recommends that the Washington Department of Natural Resources and BVQi proceed immediately to certification.

Is a Follow Up Visit Required:		No	Date(s) of Follow Up Visit:	
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Follow-up Visit Remarks (State Key Areas for Review):

Team Leader Recommendation

All NCR's cleared:	Yes		No		Proceed to Certification Audit	Yes
Date of Clearance:					Continue Certification	
Name:	Vincent P. Corrao				Date:	5-25-2006

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